

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045909
ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:EA:ANP:ATHNELSON

APPROVED BY:EA:ANP:RLWILLIAMS

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R 020813Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SUVA DATED FEBRUARY 6, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA, WELLINGTON IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID WS TN FJ

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC

FROM IMUS/GULICK FOR EA/ANP

EA ONLY

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTATIONS IN NEW CALEDONIA, TONGA AND FIJI
HAVE PROCEEDED UNUSUALLY WELL. ISLANDERS SEEM TO UNDERSTAND
LIMITED NATURE OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS AND HAVE EXPRESSED
APPRECIATED OF OUR MODEST EFFORTS.

2. IN NOUMEA TEAM RECEIVED WARMLY BY SPC, WITH DIRECTOR
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GENERAL SALATO EXPRESSING HOPE THAT OUR VISIT INDICATED A GREATER
U.S. INTEREST IN THE COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY AND IN SOUTH PACIFIC
AFFAIRS GENERALLY. PERIODIC MEETING OF FISHERIES ADVISORS FROM
THROUGHOUT THE REGION HELD COINCIDENTALLY AT TIME OF TEAM VISIT
ALLOWED TEAM TO ASK LENGTHY PROBING QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED
SPC SKIPJACK TUNA SURVEY. OPINION OF ALL FISHERY EXPERTS,
AS WELL AS TONGANS AND FIJIANS TO WHOM WE SPOKE SUBSEQUENTLY,

WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE SURVEY. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CON-
VERSATION WE TOO FEEL THAT THE SKIPJACK SURVEY IS ONE OF THE
MOST USEFUL REGIONAL PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN RECENT YEARS
AND IS WORTHY OF USG SUPPORT. ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECT AT SPC
IS IN THE HANDS OF AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES EXPERT WHO HAS THE PRO-
FESSIONAL RESPECT OF ALL IN THE AREA.

3. VISIT TO TONGA WENT BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED, WITH TONGANS
ESCHEWING UNREALISTIC, GRANDOISE PROJECTS AND FOR THE MOST
PART CONCENTRATING ON AREAS IN WHICH WE CAN OPERATE. PARTICULARLY
FRUITFUL HOWEVER, WERE DISCUSSIONS WITH CHURCH LEADERS WHO ARE
CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH VILLAGE NEEDS AND POSSESS THE ORGANIZATION
ON TO WHICH MODEST ASSISTANCE EFFORTS CAN BE GRAFTED. NEW
ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE IN SUVA, WHO IS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE
ON TONGAN AFFAIRS, AGREES THAT CHURCH ORIENTED APPROACH ORGANI-
ZATIONS LIKELY TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNEL FOR U.S. PVC
COLLABORATION. WE HAVE DEVELOPED FOR TONGA SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS
ON WHICH WE WILL REPORT IN DETAIL IN WASHINGTON. CONTACTS
IN TONGA WERE GENERALLY AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. TEAM DID
NOT SEE THE KING OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

4. IN FIJI TIME WAS PRIMARILY CONCENTRATED ON REGIONAL
INSTITUTIONS, ALTHOUGH TEAM DID SPEAK WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC PLANNING. IN LATTER
CONVERSATIONS TEAM EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE SYMPATHETIC
TO FIJI'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, WE FELT IT BEST TO CONCENTRATE OUR
ATTENTION ON LESS WELL OFF TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. WHILE UN-
DOUBTEDLY DISAPPOINTED, FIJIANS APPEAR TO ACCEPT OUR APPROACH.
SESSIONS WITH SPEC AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC (USP) WERE
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MOST PRODUCTIVE AND TEAM WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP AREAS PERTAINING
TO BOTH INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH THE U.S. MIGHT ASSIST. SPEC
DIRECTOR ASKED PARTICULARLY ABOUT CONTRIBUTION OF U.S. SHIP
TO PROPOSED FORUM LINE. TEAM TOOK APPROACH AGREED TO IN
WASHINGTON WHICH DID NOT FAZE DIRECTOR AT ALL, WHO SIMPLY
STATED THEY WOULD GET REHABILITATION COSTS FROM ANOTHER DONOR.
IN FACT SPEC ASKED ABOUT TWO VESSELS RATHER THAN ONE SHIP,
WHICH TEAM SAID THEY WOULD LOOK INTO IN WASHINGTON. EXPLORATION
OF UNDAT QUESTION INDICATED THAT THIS IS INDEED USEFUL
INSTITUTION WHICH DESERVES OUR TEMPORARY SUPPORT. FINALLY,
CALLS ON AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS HERE WHO ARE INITIMATELY
FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA CONFIRMED THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING ALONG
THE RIGHT TRACK.

5. IN SUMMARY RECEPTION FROM ALL CONTACTS THUS FAR HAS BEEN
NEARLY IDEAL. ALL APPRECIATE OUR INTEREST BUT NONE EXPECTS
TOO MUCH. ALL SEEM TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE MODEST NATURE
OF OUR PROPOSED ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT HERE IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT MOMENTUM GENERATED

BY TEAM VISIT BE MAINTAINED AS WE SEEK TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS
OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE IF EA WOULD SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH AID
ASIA ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ADLER.
FLANEGIN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE045909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA:ANP:ATHNELSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-1207
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703100/aaaadkke.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 779c07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2937032
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC FROM IMUS/GULICK FOR EA/ANP EA ONLY
TAGS: EAID, WS, TN, FJ, US
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/779c07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009